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NOTES.

WE have received the report of the House Committee on Public Lands concerning the geographical and geological surveys west of the Mississippi. The Committee conclude that the "surveys, so far as the same are necessary for military purposes, should be continued; that all other surveys for geographical, geological, topographic and scientific purposes, should be conducted under the Department of the Interior." The Committee also recommended the consolidation of Powell's with Hayden's survey, under the Department of the Interior. This has since been done, and Congress has voted \$75,000 for the continuance of Hayden's, and \$15,000 for that of Powell's survey. The continuance of Lieut. Wheeler's survey was previously provided for, \$30,000 having, we believe, been voted for its expenses. We are glad to see that a step has been taken towards a consolidation of the geological and geographical surveys of the territories of the west. We believe that the scientific interests of the country will be thus furthered, and greater unity, economy and scientific accuracy be secured.

The work should not stop here, and we look forward to a coöperation between the national government and the states in carrying on the survey of the states; in fact, it has partially been begun. This is extremely necessary in the preparation of a general map, geographical and geological, of the United States. More than this, it would be, if we mistake not, a wise and economical measure to unite the work of the Coast Survey and the Signal Bureau with that of the national geographical and geological surveys. When this has been brought about, as it may be thought necessary to do at a future not far distant, all these bureaus might still farther be united under a Science Department, equivalent to the Department of State, of War, the Navy or the Interior, with the officer at the head a member of the Cabinet, to be perhaps appointed by the President under the advice of the heads of the respective bureaus of the Science Department; these bureaus to be those of Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Geology and Mining, Meteorology, Geography, Biology and Agriculture, Anthropology and Education, etc., etc.

Such an organization of the scientific forces of the country is already foreshadowed in that of the Smithsonian Institution,

which, by its intimate relations with the government, and the national influence it has acquired through the wise and able administration of its affairs, has become even now almost in part the equivalent of a government department.

It is suggested that at the annual meetings of our scientific and learned bodies, some action be taken towards directing public attention to the need of a well organized Department of Science to look after the interests of a broad and generous scientific culture, physical, biological and social, or relating to any other branch of science which may aid in the elevation and improvement of our people.

ON June 2d the corner-stone of the American Museum of Natural History, in course of erection on Manhattan Square, New York, was laid in presence of an audience numbering 5000 people. Scientists were invited from various parts of the country. Robert L. Stuart, President of the Museum Association, delivered an address in behalf of the trustees, which was followed by an address by Governor Dix, and one by Professor Joseph Henry. The corner-stone was laid by President Grant. We have seen the plans of this great structure, which is designed to cover eighteen acres, and cost when completed \$6,000,000. It will be exceedingly handsome, imposing and convenient. In his address Professor Henry said that the great institution they were inaugurating would not be complete without provision for regular courses of free lectures and the presence of a body of scientific investigators who should give the results of their studies to the country. In congratulating the citizens of New York on the brilliant material prospects of this museum, we indulge the hope that the advice of Prof. Henry may be promptly carried out, and, that the impetus it may, under good management, give towards elevating the culture of our country be commensurate with the amusement it will afford to the people of the great city in which it is located.

WE are glad to learn that the value of applied entomology is felt by the people of New York. The Legislature of 1872, as we have recently learned, passed the following resolve:—"The sum of fifteen hundred dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid to Asa Fitch for revising and completing for publication his survey of the noxious and other insects of the state, the state to have the right to publish at all times any number of copies of said work for its own use without further payment. Dr. Fitch's first report was

published in 1856; fourteen in all have appeared, being published in the "Transactions of New York State Agricultural Society." No extra copies of the last four reports have been published, and they are exceedingly difficult to obtain. They are interesting, full of fresh observations and deserve the widest circulation.

It appears that for two years the grasshoppers have so devastated several counties in Minnesota and Iowa that the settlers are impoverished, and the earth is now so full of grasshoppers that the soil cannot be tilled for at least one year. A bill was passed by Congress permitting the settlers in all these counties to abandon their land for one year, without prejudice to their rights under the preëmption laws, so that they may support their families elsewhere.

WE have before us the first number (May) of "Psyche," the organ of the Cambridge Entomological Club, edited by B. P. Mann (8vo, pp. 4). This timely issue will, besides the matter we may expect to find in such a journal, contain a list of all writings upon entomology published in North America from the beginning of 1874, with a brief note of the contents of each. The subscription price is \$1.00.

It is understood that Dr. A. W. Chapman offers his Herbarium for sale. It must be rich in specimens of southern plants, and especially valuable as containing the types of many species described in his "Flora of the Southern United States." His address is Apalachicola, Florida.—W. M. C.

THE Botanical Congress of Europe began its sessions under the presidency of Dr. J. D. Hooker at Florence. An interesting report of the meeting will be found in the London Journal of Botany for June and July.

THERE is a flourishing Natural History Society in New Albany, Indiana, with a fine local collection of Indian remains, some of much rarity. The collections in other departments are very creditable.

THE well known entomologist G. A. Herrich Schæffer, died at Ratisbon, Germany, on the 14th of April, aged 75 years.

THE distinguished geologist, Professor John Phillips, died at Oxford, England, on the 24th of April, aged 73 years.

CLAUDE GAY, who wrote a large volume on the history, zoology and botany of Chili, recently died, in his seventy-fourth year.

EXCHANGES.

HAIR OF DERMESTES.—Larvæ of *Dermestes* with test-hairs *in situ*, for good microscopic objects.—R. H. WARD, 53 Fourth Street, Troy, N. Y.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Descriptions of New Species of Goniidæ. With a list of previously described species. By James Hall. 1874. 8vo.

The Science of Homeopathy; or, A Critical and Synthetical Exposition of the Doctrines of the Homeopathic School. By Charles J. Hempel. Cloth, \$1.75. Boericke & Tafel. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco, 1874. pp. 177. 8vo.

The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota. The Second Annual Report, for the Year 1873. By N. H. Winchell and S. F. Peckham. St. Paul, 1874. pp. 75-219. 8vo.

The Organization and Progress of the Anderson School of Natural History at Penikese Island. Report of the Trustees for 1873. Cambridge, 1874. 8vo.

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, at Harvard College, in Cambridge; Together with the Report of the Committee on the Museum, for 1873. Boston, 1874. 8vo.

Urethrotomy, External and Internal Combined, in Cases of Multiple and Difficult Stricture; with Remarks on the Urethral Calibre. By Fessenden N. Otis. New York, 1874. 8vo.

Descriptions of Bryozoa and Corals of the Lower Helderberg Group. By James Hall. Albany, 1874. 8vo.

On the Plagioterine and the Ichthyology of Utah. By Edward D. Cope. Philadelphia, 1874. 8vo.

Catalogue of the Coleoptera of Mt. Washington, N. H. By E. P. Austin; With *Descriptions of New Species*, by J. L. LeConte. Boston. 8vo.

Birds of Western and Northwestern Mexico. Based upon Collections made by A. J. Grayson, J. Zantus and Ferd. Bischoff. By George N. Lawrence. Boston. 4to.

Descriptions of Six Supposed New Species of American Birds. By George N. Lawrence. New York. 8vo.

Entomological Contributions. No. III. By J. A. Lintner. Albany. May, 1874. 8vo.

The Butterflies of North America. By W. H. Edwards. Second series, Part I. Published by Hurd & Houghton, New York. May, 1874. 4to.

Catalogue of Flowering Plants of the Southern Peninsula of Michigan, with a few of the Cryptogamia. By N. Coleman. Kent Scientific Institute. Miscellaneous Publications. No. 2. Grand Rapids, 1874. 8vo.

Catalogue of Plants Growing Without Cultivation in the State of New Jersey, with a Specific Description of all the Species of Violet found therein. By Oliver R. Willis. J. W. Schermerhorn & Co., Publishers. New York, 1874. 8vo.

Anatomy of the Invertebrata. By C. Th. V. Siebold. Translated from the German with Additions and Notes by Waldo I. Burnett. James Campbell, Publisher. Boston. 1874. pp. 470. 8vo.

Sixth Annual Report on the Noxious, Beneficial, and other Insects of the State of Missouri, made to the State Board of Agriculture, pursuant to an Appropriation for this purpose from the Legislature of the State. By Charles V. Riley. Jefferson City, 1874. 8vo.

Instructions for Observing the Transit of Venus, December 8-9, 1874. Prepared by the Commission authorized by Congress and printed for the use of the observing parties by authority of the Hon. Secretary of the Navy. Washington, 1874. 4to.

Geographical and Geological Explorations and Surveys West of the 100th Meridian.

Astronomical Report. By Lieut. George M. Wheeler. Washington. 1874. 4to.

On the Transformations of the Common House Fly, with Notes on Allied Forms. By A. S. Packard, jr. 1874. pp. 14. 8vo. With a plate.

Descriptions of New North American Phalanxide and Phyllopoda. By A. S. Packard, jr. 1874. pp. 18. 8vo.

The Influence of Climate and Topography on our Trees. By J. G. Cooper. 8vo. From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, March 16, 1874.

The Mezquite Bean. By J. G. Cooper. From the Scientific Press. San Francisco, Nov. 4, 1874. 4vo.

Psyche. Organ of the Cambridge Entomological Club. Edited by B. Pickman Mann. Vol. 1, No. 1. Cambridge, Mass., May, 1874. pp. 4. 8vo.

Observer of Nature. Vol. 1, No. 2. Lawrence, Kansas. Wednesday, April 29, 1874.

Les Cristalloïdes Complexes a Sommet Etoile. Par Leopold Hugo. Paris, 1872. 8vo.

Essai sur la Geometrie des Cristalloïdes. Par Leopold Hugo. Paris, 1873. 8vo.

Introduction a la Geometrie Descriptive des Cristalloïdes. Par Leopold Hugo. Paris, 1874. 8vo.

Y a-t-il des Faunes Naturelles Distinctes a la Surface du Globe, et quelle Methode doit-on employer pour arriver a les definir et les limiter? Extrait des Annales de la Societe Entomologique de Belgique. Par A. Preudhomme de Borre. 1873. 8vo.

Organ der deutschen Gesellschaft fur Anthropologie Ethnologie und Urgeschichte. Archiv fur Anthropologie. Zeitschrift fur Naturgeschichte und Urgeschichte des Menschen. Von Friedrich Vieweg und Sohn in Braunschweig. 1874. 4to.

Schriften der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Danzig. Neue Folge. Vol. 3, Parts 1-2. Danzig, 1872 - 1873. 8vo.